2016

ArtScience

Dustin Swiers
Minnesota State University Mankato

Graduate Thesis Exhibition

By

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A Thesis Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the

Requirements for the Degree of

Master of Arts

In

Studio Art

Minnesota State University, Mankato

Mankato, Minnesota

May 2016

Date: 03/11/16

Thesis Show Entitled “ArtScience” By Dustin Swiers

This thesis has been examined and approved by the following thesis committee.

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Chair of Committee, Amy Toscani

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Committee Member, Todd Shanafelt

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Committee Member, Dr. Steven Losh

Abstract

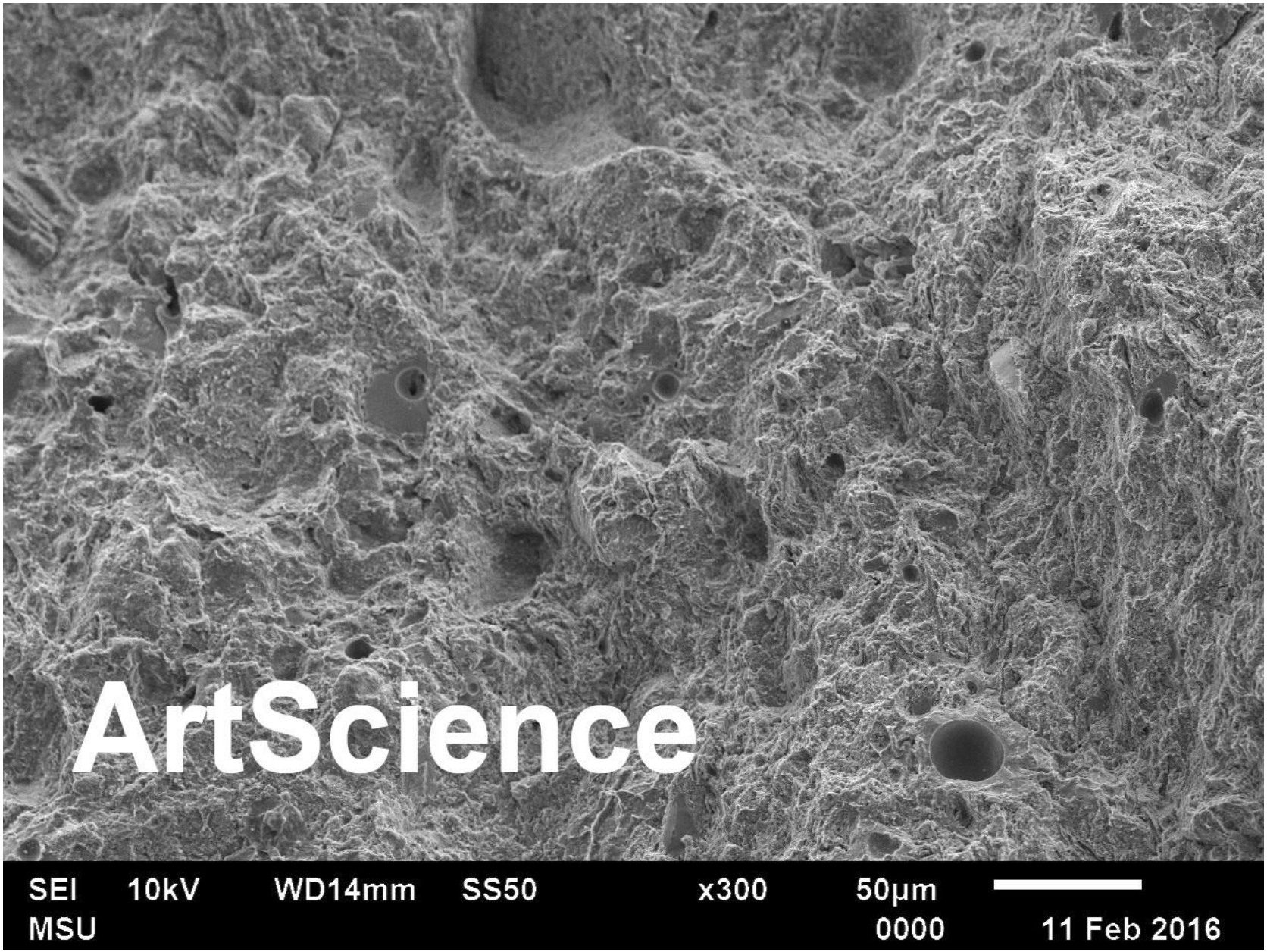
My thesis show opened on Friday, March 11, 2016 at the 410 project's art gallery, located in downtown Mankato.

The artwork consisted of sculptures displayed on pedestals, hanging on the walls, sitting on specifically constructed arrangements, and hanging from the ceiling. The materials I used to create these sculptures have a dramatically contrasting appearance, but have one universal similarity. At some point most of the materials used were liquid or fluid. I used metals, ceramics, hand blown glass, plastics, and wax. I like to work with these materials in that fluid state because of the added flexibility and forgiveness they provide when sculpting.

A lot of the reason I make art is to explore and experiment with materials. My thesis show titled *ArtScience* showcased how art can be done experimentally and likewise science can be done for aesthetic purposes. The work is primarily abstract but exhibits figural qualities, forms from nature, and industrial objects. Installation and presentation played a crucial role in creating a laboratory like environment. My overall goal was to work both as a scientist and as an artist, and create work that expresses both fields of thought. These two worlds are often viewed separately but I have proven they can be effectively integrated.

ArtScience Statement:

Art science, it might not make sense at first why these two disciplines should go together, but the two are more interrelated then is often assumed. There is an art to science and there is definitely a lot of science in making art. Sculpting allows me to work freely with both materials and processes; simply asking the questions, “what if or what might happen when I do X and Y to Z?” I pursue the act of exploration and discovery. I make art because I am a Scientist. The experiments that I make often require technical knowledge or experience in both schools of thought.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